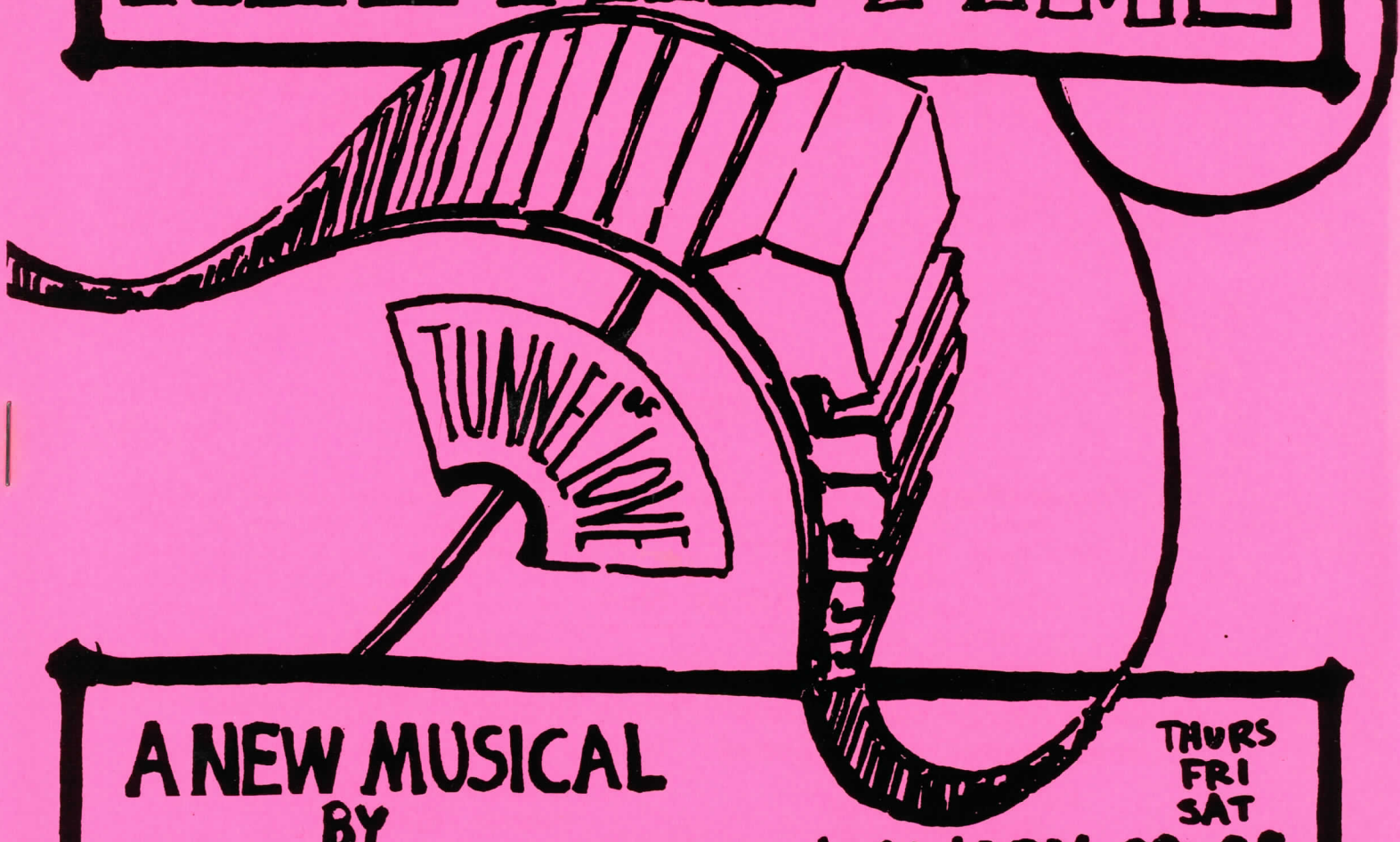
BETTER ALL THE TIME



A NEW MUSICAL
BY
DAVID KIRSHENBAUM

THURS
FRI
SAT
JANUARY 23-25

THE TRUEBLOOD THEATRE

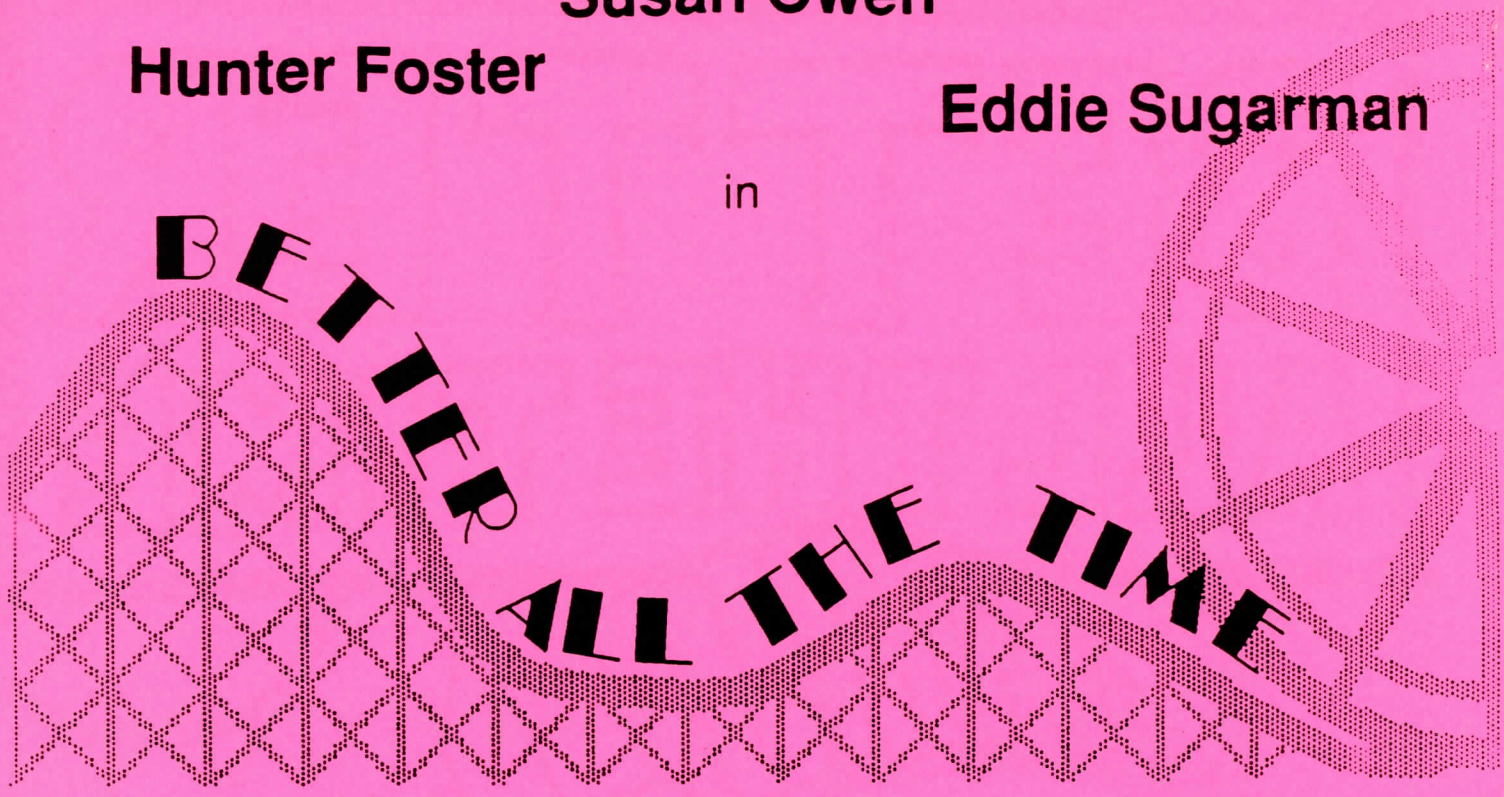
EK

Susan Owen

Hunter Foster

Eddie Sugarman

in



A New Musical
by
David Kirshenbaum

Starring

Tracy Plester Mary Ann Lombardi Tammy Jacobs

and
Miriam Shor

with

Christine Fenno **Sara Mathison** **Mandy Siegfried** **Peggy Trecker**
James Cooper **Steve Goebel** **Michael Kania** **Marc Kessler**

Lighting Designer
Matt Shibla

Costume Coordinator
Deborah Yegerlehner

Assistant to the Directors
David Mulder

General Manager
Vincent Tranchida

Choreography
by
Elizabeth Rossi

Acting Coach
and Associate Director
Jonathan Hammond

Directed
by
David Kirshenbaum and Elizabeth Rossi

These performances mark the premiere of BETTER ALL THE TIME, an entirely new musical by David Kirshenbaum. The show was originally conceived by Theresa McDermit and David Kirshenbaum.

Cast

(in order of appearance)

AMANDA	Susan Owen
THE PARTY ANIMALS	Christine Fenno
	Steve Goebel
	Mandy Siegfried
	Michael Kania
	Sara Mathison
	James Cooper
	Peggy Trecker
	Marc Kessler
DYLAN	Hunter Foster
MEG	Miriam Shor
PETER	Eddie Sugarman
CRYSTAL	Tracy Plester
LACEY	Mary Ann Lombardi
BARBRA	Tammy Jacobs

Production Staff

Author & Co-Director	David Kirshenbaum
Choreographer & Co-Director	Elizabeth Rossi
Acting Coach & Associate Director	Jonathan Hammond
Lighting Designer	Matt Shibla
Costume Coordinator	Deb Yegerlehner
Assistant to the Directors	David Mulder
General Manager	Vincent Tranchida
Musical Consultants	Bruce Kiesling
	Lynne Shankel
Publicity Advisor	Michol Sherman
Magic Consultant	Joe Gold
Light Board Operator	Jared Entin
House Manager	Becky Trombley
Graphic Designers	Michael Kania
	Eric Kauppila
Faculty Advisor	Brent Wagner

This set was designed by Gary Decker as part of last fall's University production of THE BROKEN PITCHER

Setting

The show is set in the present, at a larger Midwestern college campus shortly before the beginning of a new school year.

Synopsis of Musical Numbers

DEAR MOM AND DAD	**Amanda**
TUNNEL OF LOVE	**The Party Animals**
HOW TO MAKE A FRIEND	**Amanda and Dylan**
DYLAN'S GAMBIT	**Dylan and Amanda**
NOT MUCH ROOM FOR YOU	**Meg**
THESE ARE MY FRIENDS	**Dylan and Everyone**
HAPPY HORIZONS	**Dylan and Everyone**
I ALMOST DIE	**Peter**
DOWN	**Everyone**
SOMETHING FEELS RIGHT	**Amanda**
FORGET THAT GUY	**Barbra, Crystal, and Lacey**
FEATHER IN MY CAP	**Dylan and Peter**
SOMEONE MEANT FOR ME	**Lacey**
ONE MORE TURN	**Crystal**
DRINK YOUR FILL	**Peter and The Party Animals**
SEE FOR YOURSELF	**Dylan**
BETTER ALL THE TIME	**Meg, Dylan, and Everyone**

Additional Book Material
by
Vincent Tranchida

Vocal Arrangement of the Finale
by
Bruce Kiesling

BETTER ALL THE TIME *will be performed with no intermission.*

About The Cast and Staff

David Kirshenbaum (Author and Co-Director) -- A fourth-year student in the School of Music, David has worked as director or musical director for many productions in schools, camps, and summer stock theatres. Most recently, he spent last summer at the Williamstown Theatre Festival as assistant musical director for Peter Hunt's recreation of his original staging for 1776. He attended Trinity School in New York City, where he directed and constructed the first student production of William Finn's March of the Falsettos while working with the show's author. At 16, David became the youngest person ever accepted into the BMI Musical Theatre Workshop for composers and lyricists in Manhattan, where he began preliminary work on this show. At U of M, he has been musical director for SophShow's Grease, MUSKET's Guys and Dolls, and University Productions' Five Dollar Revue (created and directed by faculty member Joan Morris). David directed the Basement Arts premiere of Theresa McDermit's Hopwood Award-winning play, Afterthoughts, as well as last spring's MUSKET production of Cabaret (chosen as best musical of 1991 by the Ann Arbor News), and he is excited to be working with MUSKET again this semester as the director of Chess. He would like to thank the entire cast for its enthusiasm and dedication, and to thank Liz, Matt, David, Vince, and Jon for all their patience and hard work. Finally, he would like to dedicate the show to his mother and father, who are alive and well and happily married in New York City. Better All the Time is David's first original musical, and he is threatening to write another one.

Elizabeth Rossi (Choreographer and Co-Director) -- A fifth (and hopefully last) year senior, Elizabeth made her choregraphic debut at the University of Michigan working with David on the MUSKET production of Guys and Dolls. Since then, her credits have included numerous pieces for dance concerts and childrens' theatre, as well as her acclaimed direction and choreography for MUSKET's Pippin. She is currently at work on Into the Feet, the Basement Arts dance project (February 14-15, 11pm). SHe will also be busy choreographing and serving as an associate director for MUSKET's production of Chess as well as searching for a job after choreographing.... She would like to give special thanks to her family, Rodger, Tim Millett, and a creative, talented cast & crew.

James Cooper (Party Animal) -- James is a third year Musical Theatre major at the University of Michigan. A native of Los Angeles, "Coop" has a wide spectrum of credits in both theatre and television. Last summer, he performed in Shoe Man at the Purple Rose Theatre, and he was last seen in the original play Afterthoughts. He would like to thank the entire Better All the Time cast and crew for everything. Through all the spills (forgive the pun), it has been an amazing couple of months.

Christine Fenno (Party Animal) -- Christine, a third-year Musical Theatre major, is happy to return to the Trueblood after appearing with the University Players in August Snow and The Broken Pitcher. You'll find her constantly pursuing remedies for her stressful life, such as baking killer brownies and zoning out with crosswords. A native of Milwaukee, she sends even more love to all her loved ones.

Hunter Foster (Dylan) -- Hunter has appeared in numerous U of M productions, including Company, A Little Night Music, Into the Woods, If My Friends Could See Me Now, The Threepenny Opera, and The White Rose. He is also a member of the controversial band, "Cane and the Ables".

Steve Goebel (Party Animal) -- Steve, a sophomore in Musical Theatre, is happy to be a part of Better All the Time. Steve has functioned not only as a chorus member for the show, but also as a rehearsal pianist. Steve's U of M theatre debut was as Peron in MUSKET's Evita last semester and he is looking forward to his role as the "society man" in the upcoming University Production of The Time of Your Life.

Jonathan Hammond (Acting Coach and Associate Director) -- Jon has appeared in numerous U of M shows, including The Threepenny Opera, A Little Night Music, The White Rose, Tartuffe, The Broken Pitcher, and If My Friends Could See Me Now. He is a national treasure and everyone lives for him.

Tammy Jacobs (Barbra) -- Tammy is a sophomore in the BFA Theatre progam with a second major in Psychology. This is her first musical production at the University of Michigan. Her University credits include Pelleas and Melisande and The Broken Pitcher. This past summer, she played "Cheryl" in The Tafettas at the Red Barn Theatre in Saugatuck, Michigan. Recently, she performed a one-woman show at Danny's Skylight Room in Manhattan.

Michael Kania (Party Animal) -- Michael is embarking on his second semester of his sophomore year as an LSA student here at U of M. A native of Warren, Michigan, he has performed in SophShow's Sweet Charity and MUSKET's Cabaret, co-produced The Fantasticks, and is currently managing promotions for the upcoming MUSKET production of Chess. His thanks go to his family and friends for their support.

Marc Kessler (Party Animal) -- Marc's middle name is "Party Animal", so it is very fitting that he be portraying just that in Better All the Time. He is a sophomore in the Musical Theatre program at U of M, coming all the way from Lambertville, Michigan. You may have seen him recently as Magaldi in MUSKET's Evita last term. He really enjoys performing and hopes that you enjoy his performance as well. Bop!

Mary Ann Lombardi (Lacey) -- Mary Ann is a sophomore in the Musical Theatre program at the University of Michigan. Hailing from Gainsville, Florida, she played Ronette last summer in the University of Florida's production of Little Shop of Horrors. This was a GREAT experience, because it contrasted with her previous role (In Baltimore, Maryland) as Amahl in Amahl and the Night Visitors by Menotti. Mary Ann would like to thank her wonderfully supportive parents for flying out to see the show.

Sara Mathison (Party Animal) -- Sara like many things. She likes to eat, sing, dance, and cavort. If it weren't for her love of food, she'd probably pursue a career on Broadway -- but, you see... she likes food a lot. So anyway, she's an MT wannabe (actually a senior in LSA pursuing a double major in BA Theatre and English) who has performed in Cabaret, The Broken Pitcher, Comedy Co., and Just Kidding Production Co.. She'd like to thank her parents for their continued support of her grocery bill.

David Mulder (Assistant to the Directors) -- David is an LSA sophomore. His U of M performance credits include MUSKET's Cabaret and Evita and SophShow's Sweet Charity and The Fantasticks. He also stage managed the premiere showing of Basement Arts' Afterthoughts last term. He would like to give special thanks to "Fingers" for all his dramatic inspiration and little bubbles of love.

Susan Owen (Amanda) -- Susan is a junior in the U of M Musical Theatre program. She was last seen as Jenny in Company and spent her summer doing "new musicals" at the Red Barn Playhouse. She would like to say only one thing: "Dear Mom and Dad... thank you".

Tracy Plester (Crystal) -- Tracy, a junior in the Musical Theatre program, is excited and proud to be a part of the premiere of Better All the Time. At school she has been seen in Company (Joanne), Pippin (Berthe), and Sweet Charity (Niki). Her other credits include She Loves Me (Amalia), Evita (The Mistress), Oklahoma! (Ado Annie), and Guys and Dolls (Adelaide). Someday, she hopes to star in David's first Broadway musical!

Miriam Shor (Meg) -- Miriam is a junior English/Theatre BFA double major here at the University of Michigan. She has participated in such shows as Pippin (Catherine), The Broken Pitcher (Frau Bridget), and Marat/Sade (playing Rassignol, under the direction of Lewis Palter). Last summer, she worked at the Centennial Theatre Festival as Alais in The Lion in Winter. She has previously worked with David Kirshenbaum as Fraulein Kost in Cabaret, and has thoroughly enjoyed working with him once again.

Matt Shibla (Lighting Designer) -- Matt is an LSA senior concentrating in Psychology. He has worked as a stage manager, set designer, and lighting designer for a number of University shows, including Company, and last year's MUSKET performance of Cabaret. Most recently, he has worked on The Tales of Hoffmann, at the Spoleto Festival, USA.

Mandy Siegfried (Party Animal) -- Mandy is a sophomore from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She is currently in the Theatre BFA program here at U of M and is excited to be involved in her fifth university show! About the cast, she says, "These are my friends, and a lot of good friends they are!" She gives a special thanks to Piglet for her interpretative dance support.

Eddie Sugarman (Peter) -- Eddie is a sophomore in the BFA Musical Theatre program at the University of Michigan. His University credits include Company, Evita, and The Wiz. He spent last summer dancing for Holiday World theme park in Santa Claus, Indiana. Heaps of thanks to Marc, Bruce, Randy, Jason, Dina and William. Mom and Dad, thank you for letting me take a stab at this!

Vincent Tranchida (General Manager) -- Vincent is a LSA junior and English major who is trying to fufill all of the requirements for pre-med as well. He has appeared in the chorus of MUSKET's Cabaret and Guys and Dolls and has worked as the production manager for Basement Arts' Afterthoughts. He is VERY proud of the entire cast and staff for all of their hard work, and would like to dedicate this show to his parents and brother.

Peggy Trecker (Party Animal) -- Better All the Time marks Peggy's fifth production at the University. She has been seen, and heard in some cases (bop!), in Pippin, Sweet Charity, Company, and Winnie the Pooh. Other involvements have included Everything You Wanted to Know About Sex (choreography) But Were Afraid To Ask, and Into the Feet. Peggy is a junior in the Musical Theatre program.

Deb Yegerlehner (Costume Coordinator) -- Deb is one of those insane MFA design students of the University of Michigan. This is her second (!!!) year. Deb has previously been responsible for the costumes in Pelleas and Melisande & The Broken Pitcher (for whom she won the ACTF National Merit Award). Her next suicidal task is to design costumes for the Musical Theatre program's spring production of Pal Joey. And last, but not least, she would like to thank her fellow costume design roomie for all her support.

Very Special Thanks
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